you'll see in a year's time!

COMPLE BIBLE

SHIMANO'S NEW SPECIAL SPOOL

them a good battering!

SEPTEMBER 08 Mike Willmott P80 Answering your every need

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HOW A REEL WORKS

Salvation has arrived! In the shape of the country's finest bait man

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Hall of Fame P84 Your catches - now worth more Nutrabaits News P88 Bait chat, reports and reviews INTRODUCTION his month in The Tank Test we're testing some baits from Quest Baits, a relative newcomer to the

Baits, the quality of not only the bait but also the packaging was immediately apparent. I looked on their website and it was very well set out with videos and articles as well as some good information on all of the

THE FACILITIES

Quest Baits products. Well worth a

surprises me how many bait

companies there are and if one is to be successful they need to produce products to a very high standard.

carp (Cyprinus carpio) consisting of five fish supplied by Priory Fisheries, Devon, and are a mixture of commons, mirrors and leathers. The tank being used is a 4ft aquarium that contains 200 litres of water; the water is circulated through an external filter using a 500 litres per hour pond pump. The tank has a running temperature ranging between 16 and 22 degrees centigrade, the filter consists of two sections, the first designed is for suspended solid removal, the second

media for biological filtration. DISCLAIMER While the facilities used are in the Otley College Fisheries Unit, the observations and discussion of the tests are my own views and are not those of Otley College. The results of the tests are not scientifically sound and the experimental design is wide

containing a fluidised bed of plastic

open for criticism. The idea behind the test is to give an overview of specific baits and record the carp's reaction to them based on my observations. This will help you to decide which bait might be best for you to use this season. EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN I will be carrying out the same two basic trials on each bait: ■ SEPTEMBER 2008



Fruity Trifle **FOOD: TESTED** HAT THE BOSS THINKS Quest Baits MD, Shaun Harrison, on his

TRIAL ONE: How do fish react to the smell of the bait? This trial is designed to see how fish react to the smell of the bait when it is introduced to the system but not into their holding tank. This will be achieved by introducing one crumbled entering the water. This will mean the response from the fish will be a scent stimulated feeding reaction and not the result of visual stimulation caused by feed entering the tank. The scoring system is based on giving the reaction of the fish a score based on the degree of stimulation and enthusiasm to feed observed following the introduction of the crumbled bait to the filter. The scoring system is as follows:

Good reaction. Fish observed rapidly tasting the water. Fish actively searching for food around the tank bottom. Mental! Frantic tasting of the water. Frantic feeding activity, earching for food around bottom of the tank.

exhibit slightly increased activity.

No reaction at all. The fish exhibit no signs of feeding

activity. Just carry on their normal behaviour - not good!

9 Small reaction. Fish observed tasting the water. The carp.

start mouthing sand around the bottom of the tank and

THIS MONTH'S BAITS

website and catalogue (www.questbaits.com).

As I have mentioned, the baits on test this month are from Quest Baits. They have submitted four boilies for the trials. I have compiled a review of each bait using information gained from the Quest Baits

SPECIAL CRAB

The Special Crab is produced from lowtemperature treated fishmeal and a

smell comes from a very high quality crab flavour with a subtle garlic and

results it really comes into its own

during the warmer months.

the 1980's and still do today. Very angler/missus friendly being a combination of fruits and cream on a loose textured birdfood base to allow a good instant flavour release. If the carp in the test

predictions on how his baits will perform...

LIVER B8: I have stuck my head on the line and stated in print before that I believe this to be the best boilie I have produced to date. Certainly during the long-testing period the fish I watched eating it in several different venues continued to dig around for quite some time after the bait was gone. They certainly recognised it as a food source the moment they came

across it and seemingly always wanted more. SPECIAL CRAB: A classic combination of garlic, crab, black pepper, low temperature treated fishmeals and Robin Red birdfood. This bait utilises natural ingredients and essential oils and has worked

everywhere I have known it to be used.

a lengthy time in the water.

are like the

RAHJA SPICE: The bait I had made for myself and reluctantly released when Quest Baits started. This is the biggest selling bait in our range because of the sheer amount of carp it catches. It utilises humangrade spices, peppers, chillies and garlic as well as my special blend of essential oils to retain taste after

RUITY TRIFLE: Based on a bait I have used since

carp in my tanks they will be instantly attracted to it. TRIAL TWO: Do fish actually eat the bait? The smell of a bait might be very attractive to a carp only for the taste to be overpowering when the fish actually tries to eat it. For a foodbait to be successful they need to be palatable to baits are to the fish, to see if they actually like to eat it. The same amount of each boilie will be introduced directly into the tanks. The feeding response of the fish will then be given a score based on the reaction of the carp following the introduction of the bait as shown below: The carp are stimulated by the sight of the bait entering the water and pick up pieces upon introduction. The fish then

reject the bait and show little further interest in it.

continued feeding activity around the tank.

This is what we want to see!

The carp are stimulated by the sight of the bait entering the

water and pick up pieces upon introduction. There is some

They love it! The carp eat the bait the moment it enters the

In order to gain the best results I will only test one bait per day

morning and then Trial Two in the evening using the same bait.

on each of the groups of fish, carrying out Trial One in the

water and want to eat the next bait before one of their mates does! Fish continue searching for more food around tank.

THE RESULTS

TRIAL ONE: How do fish the blend of birdfood ingredients, including react to the smell of the bait? the legendary Robin Red. The taste and SPECIAL CRAB WENTALI Very good black pepper back taste. For maximum reaction to the smell of the

RAHJA SPICE

Rahja Spice a nutritionally balanced birdfood-based bait containing a highly

nutritious and digestible blend of

ingredients. This includes the very

Red a select range of human grade spices with added garlic, taste

me of my local curry house!

effective carp catching birdfood Robin

enhancers and essential oils. It reminds

FRUITY TRIFLE Fruity Trifle is based on a yellow birdfood base, the finished boilie is a pale red colour with lots of food content and utilises very instant flavours. This

> a lot more to it than many of the nice smelling flavour carrier baits that I've seen in the past.

combined with a quality nutritionally

balanced base gives you the best of

both worlds. It certainly seems to have

fish reacted well to the scent of the crumbled Liver B8 entering the tank. A strong feeding response was observed

RAHJA SPICE

DE REACTION. Another good reaction to the scent of the bait entering the tank, this fish soon gathered around the inlet pipe and were observed searching for food around the tank.

MENTAL! A very good

observed on introducing

feeding response was

the crumbled boilies into the

filter. The fish were obviously highly stimulated by the smell

of the Fruity Trifle bait!

FOOD: TESTED THE TANK TEST

really competing for each mouthful of bait and it was all The first boilie tested was the cleared up very quickly. Special Crab; I haven't seen many reactions like that during the course of the series. The carp really were competing hard for each mouthful of bait. Liver B8 was the next bait to be The carp immediately

In a frenzy over the

Special Crab

column. A good response and all of the bait was eaten. A very impressive response

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TRIAL TWO: Do the fish

Once again a very

impressive result for the

Special Crab, the fish were

reacted to the sight of the

bait entering the tank and

were taking the chopped pieces

as they fell through the water

actually eat the bait?

to the Rahja Spice boilies similar to that of the Special Crab. Fish were racing around feeding very aggressively and competing for every mouthful of bait, Impressive!

Not quite the same response as that of the first trial. The fish reacted to the sight of the bait and clearly found it attractive. All

the bait was eaten but not with

the same enthusiasm as some

of the boilies tested.

Responding well to the Liver b8.

Nailing the Rahja Spice.

Feeding on the Fruity Trifle.

tested, however it didn't quite have the same response as some baits tested. In the Quest Baits catalogue it states the bait seems to sort out

could have been about it. That said, they soon finished it all and definitely weren't complaining! The Rahja Spice boilies smelt really nice and made me feel

reaction so we'll look at that. They clearly found the boilies very palatable and demonstrated a very strong feeding response following the introduction of the bait into the out for.

tank. Definitely another bait to look The final bait was the Fruity Trifle, another really nice smelling bait that smells good enough to eat. The fish certainly agreed and their response to the scent of it entering the tank in trial one was impressive. The result of Trial Two wasn't quite

soon cleared up and it didn't seem Purely based on the result of the test, then the Special Crab is definitely the boilie I would use. However, the tests are by no means

then based on what I've seen Quest Baits are well worth a look.

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baits, the fish were charging around the tank frantically searching for food and tasting the water column. The Special Crab really got

them going!

THE TANK TEST

LIVER B8 Liver B8 is a total meat, liver and blood based bait. No fishmeals and no birdfoods at all make this bait very different to most boilies. The bait is LIVER B8 naturally dark brown in colour and contains no bulk oils; the flavour and taste are both very subtle. as the fish were definitely stimulated by the bait.

FRUITY TRIFLE

CONCLUSION Once again, some very impressive results were observed in this month's Tank Test. All of the boilies performed well and the carp accepted them with no exceptions.

the larger fish, which may explain the fact that the small fish in the tank weren't as enthusiastic as they

hungry, but the tests aren't about what I think, it's about the carp's

as good, that may have been due to the strong fruit flavour being slightly over-powering. All the bait was still

scientifically sound. All of the boilies look to be very good quality and have a really nice consistency, if you're looking for a change of bait

to be a major issue.

James Anderson BSc (Hons) SEPTEMBER 2008 [II] 579